



DG News Update: Special Issue Vol. 2

*This is the second of a series of special **Democratic Governance News Updates** marking the 10 years of the DGP-Net. We are pleased to launch this News Update focusing on **Human Rights and Anti Corruption**.*

2008 – Combined Issue No.58 – 59

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Feature Topic

'All Human Rights for All': Human Rights Day 10 December 2008



[10/12/08] On the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator observes that the "document has exerted a moral, political and legal influence, well beyond the aspirations of its original drafters". Aptly proclaimed the "common standard of achievement for all people and all nations", the UDHR has led to numerous achievements since its adoption in 1948, particularly in terms of standard-setting. However, he cautions, we still have a long way to go to ensure the realization of "all human rights for all." [more...](#)

Corruption: Your "No" Counts



[09/12/08] The world is still reeling from a global financial crisis, caused in part by greed and corruption. This is bad enough, yet another, silent financial crisis afflicting the world's poorest people attracts far less attention. Every year across the developing world, billions of dollars that are badly needed to improve the lives of the needy; are stolen or lost through bribes and other misdeeds. The United Nations is fighting back through the UN Convention against Corruption which contains strong measures for building integrity and fighting corruption in both the public and private sectors. Indeed, corruption affects us all. It weakens democratic institutions, undermines the rule of law and enables terrorists to finance their nefarious work. On this International Day, the UN Secretary General calls us all to do our part to strengthen integrity, play by the rules, and turn the tide against this global menace. As UNODC's anti-corruption campaign states, your "no" counts. [more...](#)



One UN against Corruption - 9 December 2008

[08/12/08] 9 December was designated by General Assembly Resolution as the International Anti-Corruption Day. In his message, Olav Kjørven, BDP Director noted that the International Anti-Corruption Day presents an opportunity for all UN agencies and offices to promote the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) as the central international legal framework for the fight against corruption.

[more...](#)

Practice News

DG Insights: Donor Harmonization in Zambia: Form without Content?

[22/11/08] In this DG Insights, Jeremias Blaser, Assistant Resident Representative in Zambia considers the the Zambian experience with donor harmonization in the governance sector and explores how the Paris Agenda can shift the conceptual understanding of a sector and eventually affect programming options.



Network members with pertinent experiences and/or thematic expertise on specific governance issues are invited to submit comments and read other DG Insights products on our DG Insights Live! wiki or by sending an email to dgp-net@groups.undp.org. [more...](#)

DG Insight: Instant Feedback

[20/11/08] [Contributed with thanks by Fredrick Abeyratne, Sri Lanka]. In this response to our latest issue of Democratic Governance Insights, Fredrick Abeyratne shares his thoughts on the implementation of the Paris Declaration in Sri Lanka. [more...](#)

DG Insights: Democratization in the Arab States: Is it Working?



[19/11/08] The Arab region presents a particular set of constraints for governance and democracy related projects in that region. For instance, most countries in the region have highly centralized systems of government; with bureaucratic and patronage systems of administration that leave little scope for democracy. And the press is relatively free only in a few countries. In this issue of DG Insights, Asr Toson, Governance Policy Advisor in UNDP SURF Lebanon reviews the impact of the democratization process in Arab States. He questions the implied linkages between development, growth and democratization; and shares some lessons learned from the UNDP experience in the region. [more...](#)

HuriTalk sub-network on National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

[18/11/08] Do you work in the area of NHRI? Would you like to join a community of practitioners also working in this area? The number of practitioners working with NHRIs is growing exponentially. The UN's involvement with NHRIs is becoming an important part of country level support to national human rights mechanisms, and lots of work has been done in this area. As a result we are increasingly gathering experiences and lessons learned in this area. In response to practitioners' requests, HURITalk has launched a forum where practitioners can share experiences, thoughts as well as questions and challenges; as well as ask - and share - materials relevant for the strengthening of NHRIs worldwide. With this support, HuriTalk will be able to connect programme officers, project staff and experts working with NHRIs in a virtual forum. [more...](#)

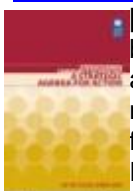
DG CoP on WIKI

DGP-Net Scrapbook: 10 years of Knowledge Sharing



[02/11/08] As the DGP-Net is celebrating its 10 years of knowledge sharing, we are very pleased to invite you, to share your thoughts, stories, and critiques on this long journey with the Democratic Governance Community of Practice. We have created a wiki-space for you to add to the 'Celebrating Knowledge Sharing' scrapbook! You are welcome to send comments, memories; and stories with pictures to DGP-Net. [more...](#)

DGP-Net Lessons Learned Series Issue I: Strengthening CoP - A Strategic Agenda for Action



[07/11/08] The value of Communities of Practice (CoPs) should be measured by the usefulness they bring to practitioners in their work and their ultimate development impact. Of course, value can be added to the CoPs through a host of activities, including Face to Face (F2F) meetings, support missions, study tours, virtual discussion forums, mutual support initiative, innovation fund, participation fund, fellowship, intensive CO-to-CO support, e-discussion formal training, resource mobilization, etc.). Following wide range of online and offline consultations, the present guidance note attempts to identify some of the lessons learned and good practices to strengthen the CoP processes and functioning.

While highlighting different ways communities could impact individuals and organizations (e.g. increasing learning and knowledge sharing or motivation and commitment for members), several factors in the Guidance Note also focus on one of the dimensions of individual and organizational impact: increased performance. [more...](#)

Network Happenings

Make your Voice Count!



[02/12/08] Every year, the DGP-Net asks network members to rate the quality and usefulness of network knowledge services and products. We also request that members suggest priority policy themes to be discussed and debated on the network in the following year. The poll ensures that we are connected to the realities that network members face on the ground; and establishes an accountability framework for the network and the knowledge management team. Although this is not the best time to solicit feedback, it is important for us to start afresh in the New Year backed by your critical assessment and fresh perspectives. This poll will not take more than 7 minutes of your time. And the first 100 respondents will receive a copy of one of the DGP-Net products and/or souvenirs, launched to mark "10 years of Knowledge Sharing on DGP-Net (1998-2008)". To participate in the poll, please click on <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey?p=WEB228FZZJHPGS> and submit your answers by December 12. [more...](#)

[Latest Consolidated Replies](#)



[29/11/08] Consolidated Reply: The Gambia/Comparative Experiences/ Supporting Capacity Development of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Missions; Revised Consolidated Reply: Rwanda / Support to Gender Monitoring Office / Comparative Experiences; Consolidated Reply: Pakistan/ Comparative Experiences/Handbook on HR for Parliamentarians; CONSOLIDATED REPLY: Timor-Leste / Establishment of Civil Service Commission; and Revised Consolidated Reply: Lesotho: Experts / Reviewing Allowance for Diplomats. [more...](#)

[Open Queries](#)

[27/11/08] To contribute to any of these open queries, or submit a new one, please send an email to dgp-net@groups.undp.org. [more...](#)

[Announcements](#)

[UNDEF 3rd Round Funding for Projects that Promote Democracy](#)



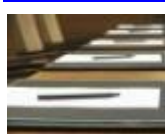
[30/11/08] [Contributed with thanks by Bharati Sadasivam, New York]. The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) invites civil society organizations to apply for funding for projects to promote democracy. UNDEF funds projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and ensure the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The thematic categories for applications are: democratic dialogue and support for constitutional processes; civil society empowerment, including the empowerment of women; civic education and voter registration; citizen's access to information; participation rights and the rule of law in support of civil society; transparency and integrity. Priority will be given to projects that enhance inclusiveness and gender equality. Applicants are requested to submit their proposals online by 31 December, 2008. [more...](#)

[Course: Local Governance for Rural Development: 2 - 20 February 2009](#)



[15/11/08] This course on the challenges faced in building local governance in support of rural development is jointly offered by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) and Wageningen International and held in Wageningen, Netherlands. It looks at the challenges faced when building local governance in support of rural development. Participants will analyze existing, complex situations and develop strategies to overcome these challenges. The course focuses on multi-stakeholder processes and social learning as ways of enhancing success. The deadline for applications is 9 January 2009. [more...](#)

[Course: Socio-Economic Rights, 9 - 13 March 2009](#)



[14/11/08] As part of its Good Governance Programme, the University of Pretoria is offering a course on the role of socio-economic rights in modern democratic states, and the enforcement thereof, including the role of implementing, budgeting and litigating socio-economic rights. Other course offerings include: Election Observation 8 - 12 March 2010; Human Rights and Access to Medicines 4 - 8 May 2009; Human Rights in Africa, 25 - 29 May 2009; Good Governance General Course 13 - 24 July 2009 and [more...](#)

[Announcing the UNDP 2009 Procurement Training Programme](#)

[10/11/08] [Contributed with thanks by Torben Soll, Copenhagen]. UNDP Procurement Support Office (PSO) provides essential procurement training courses open to UN staff and development partners. Training courses on Fundamentals of Public Procurement; Procurement Strategy Development; Contract and Supplier Relations Management; Risk Management in Contracting for Construction Services; and Effective Negotiations in Projects and Procurement are offered on a recurring basis in Bangkok (Thailand), Vienna (Austria), Dubai (United Arab Emirates), New York (USA) and Copenhagen (Denmark). The 2009 course calendar is now available online. [more...](#)

[Events](#)

[Conference: The Human Right to Water and Sanitation - "Translating Theory into Practice"](#)

[15/11/08] [Contributed with thanks by Emilie Filmer-Wilson, Oslo]. Exactly 6 years after the recognition of water as a human right, 60 experts - policy makers, development practitioners, academics, private organisations & civil society representatives - sat down to look at whether the right is firmly entrenched in international human rights laws and what this means for our thinking and practice on water & sanitation. The international conference was organized by Oxford University, Oslo University and UNDP and held from 26 - 28 November 2008 in Oslo. [more...](#)

Inter-Municipal Cooperation Workshop, 28 30 October, Bratislava

[16/11/08] [Contributed with thanks by Hachemi Bahloul, Bratislava]. The UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, the Council of Europe and the Open Society Institute held a workshop in Bratislava in October 2008. It brought together central and local government representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Turkey and the UN Administered Province of Kosovo. Participants presented case studies and strategies / approaches to encourage inter-municipal co-operation. Participants agreed that they must increase awareness of inter-municipal co-operation and strengthen the capacities of central and local government, as well as of local government associations. The workshop organizers agreed to jointly develop a manual on inter-municipal co-operation and a training programme which can be adapted to specific country circumstances and used to deliver targeted capacity building activities. [more...](#)

Resources

Human Rights Day 2008 Information Kit



[01/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Sandrine Mbea, OHCHR]. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has prepared an information kit for the 2008 Human Rights Day to be observed on 10 December, 2008. The kit includes a summary of events that took place around the world to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); information on the "Stories on Human Rights" films; background information on the Human Rights Prize; useful tools and contacts; and Human Rights Education and the UDHR, in the context of the International Year of Human Rights Learning. The kit is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. [more...](#)

Access for all: Basic Public Services for 1.3 billion People - 2007/2008 China NHDR



[30/11/08] [Contributed with thanks by Bill Bikales; UNDP China]. Launched on 16 November 2008, the new China National Human Development Report "Access for All: Basic Public Services for 1.3 Billion People" has received great interest and attention. It assesses gaps in public service delivery between urban and rural areas, between wealthy coastal provinces and poorer interior ones, between men and women and between domestic migrant workers and the registered urban population. After presenting links between these trends in public service delivery and the development outcome gaps that they are causing, the report looks at cross-cutting institutional causes of these problems. It concludes with nine clear and important recommendations for how the government can more rapidly overcome these gaps and create more equitable public service institutions and systems. [more...](#)

Right to Health - A Report on Health Systems and the Right to Health: an Assessment of 194 Countries

[20/11/08] [Contributed with thanks by Emilia Mugnai, Bangkok]. 60 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights laid the foundations for the right to the highest attainable standard of health. This report features some of the right-to-health features of health systems, such as a comprehensive national health plan, and proposes 72 indicators that reflect some of these features. Where they are available, the indicators show where health systems need to be improved to better realise the right to health. Recommendations are provided for governments, international bodies, civil-society organisations, and other institutions and suggest that these indicators and data, although not perfect, give a basis for the monitoring of health systems and the progressive realisation of the right to health. [more...](#)

Assessing the State of Democracy - IDEA



[19/11/08] This guide was published to help people around the world conduct a health check on their own governments and institutions. Developed by International IDEA, the methodology has already been used by countries as diverse as Australia, New Zealand and Bosnia Herzegovina to scrutinize the way their governments operate and draw up ways of making them more democratic. "Assessing the Quality of Democracy: A Practical Guide" draws from experience around the world to provide a framework that can be adapted to apply to institutions in a variety of contexts. [more...](#)

Creating Credibility - Legitimacy and Accountability for Transnational Civil Society



[18/11/08] In many countries, civil society organizations (CSOs) are more trusted than businesses and government. And unlike governments and businesses, CSOs have an array of constituencies to whom they are accountable. Without legitimacy in the eyes of the public and other key actors, CSOs cannot effectively function. In this book, civil society expert L. David Brown provides approaches to assessing and enhancing the legitimacy and accountability of CSOs, allowing them to reach their full potential in contributions to governance and problem-solving. [more...](#)

Dignity and Justice for All of Us: Stories from NHRIs in ECIS

[29/11/08] Developed by UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre and UNDP Country Offices and NHRIs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine, this publication highlights the different ways that NHRIs have worked on promotion and protection of human rights at the national level. [more...](#)

Mini Atlas of Human Security - World Bank



[17/11/08] Produced by the Human Security Report Project and the World Bank, this at-a-glance guide to global security issues provides information on armed conflicts and its impact on human security since 1946, featuring detailed explanations of the links between poverty and conflict, assaults on human rights - including the use of child soldiers - and the driving causes of war and peace. [more...](#)

Child Rights Situation Analysis - Save the Children



[16/11/08] A situation analysis is an important link in the programme cycle to formulate an intervention or organisational strategy. This manual produced by Save the Children South East Asia and Pacific office provides detailed guidelines and a seven-step process on how to implement a child rights-based approach to situation analysis. [more...](#)

Human Rights Education for Children - Compasito



[16/11/08] Human rights education is a process that aims to establish a culture of human rights. The Compasito educational process builds on children's active participation by which they learn about human rights and understand human rights issues, acquire skills and abilities to be able to defend human rights and develop attitudes of respect of equality and dignity. The manual introduces a theoretical background of human rights education for children and provides 42 practical learning activities under 13 human rights themes. [more...](#)

New Book - The State of Access: Success and Failure of Democracies To Create Equal Opportunities



[14/11/08] [Contributed with thanks by Hideko Hadzialic, New York]. Democracies are judged by whether their citizens have equal access to public services, economic opportunities, justice, and the democratic process. In theory, rules and regulation may formally guarantee this access, but in reality the picture is often very different. Malfunctioning institutions of democratic governance create inequalities in terms of access for a number of reasons, including exclusionary policymaking, insufficient attention to minorities, rationing strategies, and inflexible delivery and enforcement systems. The access paradox bedeviling democracies is that precisely the citizens who most depend on the state to guarantee equal access, are often least able to use the proper channels to have their entitlements enforced. The State of Access, edited by Jorrit de Jong and Gowher Rizvi of Harvard University; documents the worrisome gap between principles and practice in democratic governance and presents ideas designed to narrow that gap. [more...](#)

Human Rights Budgeting to Promote and Protect Social and Economic Rights - IDASA

[14/11/08] The Budget Information Service of the Institute for Democratic Alternatives in South Africa (IDASA) analyzes government budgets from a human rights perspective to determine through criteria of transparency, accountability, and governance, whether particular groups of people are being fairly and democratically represented in government programs. [more...](#)

Job Vacancies

DG Vacancies and Consultancies

[09/11/08] To view the latest Vacancy and Consultancy announcements, please see [more...](#)

